

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
445 12th St. S.W.
Room TW-B204
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

COMMENTS PERTAINING TO MM DOCKET 99-25

I am not in favor of licensing "micro-radio" stations with a power from 1 to 10 watts. This is TOO small to provide any quality of service even to a specific audience or community. The only way they could succeed is if the audience was geographically set extremely near the station. If the tower is low, (something I would assume to be usually true), even being near by still may make it hard to pick up. Additionally, I think a bunch of these stations would just clutter up the FM band. If you're in a car, this could be very annoying if you pick up a station, start enjoying it, and then very soon start losing it. Even 100 watt stations that now exist are tough to pick up. You sometimes have to do external antenna gymnastics in order to receive a quality signal with no noise in the Stereo mode. Generally, the problem with stations under 1,000 watts is that if you're not "right on top of them", quality pick up is a problem.

I also worry about the potential problems with interference if a bunch of new stations pop up close on the band to established ones. The integrity of the FM band should take preference over succumbing to political pressure.

The ultimate answer for many of the groups who want to go on-the-air is for them to start up intern. et/World Wide Web stations.

As far as I'm concerned, you should make 1,000 watts the minimum on FM.

Thank you,

John L. Basalla

John L. Basalla
43 Sprague Road
Berea, Oh 44017

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MM Docket 99-25

Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW, Room 222
Washington DC 20554

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To the Secretary:

We are writing to commend the Commission for taking action on an issue of great importance to us -- improving access to our airwaves for our local communities. We have become increasingly concerned about the growing concentration of the media in our country and are pleased that the Commission is taking action to increase opportunities for local communities to use our radio airwaves.

One of the fundamental tenets of our democracy is to ensure that diverse interests have opportunities to express themselves at different levels, and that they are not locked out in a monopolistic, globalized fashion. It is as fundamental as free speech. Radio is perhaps the most qualified of any media outlet to provide community access. It is a relatively inexpensive medium to produce and is well-suited to cover community issues and local music. Unfortunately, today's radio is the most concentrated and formulaic medium in the country. Providing licenses to low power FM radio stations would create new opportunities for local voices to be heard in their communities.

Allowing low power FM radio stations on the air would empower local broadcasters to serve their communities with a variety of new voices and services. Low power radio stations would be able to address specific groups -- including minority groups, the religious community, and linguistic minorities -- and provide a forum for debate about important local issues. These kinds of stations would strengthen community identity in urban neighborhoods, rural towns and other communities which are currently too small to win much attention from "mainstream," ratings-driven media.

Further they would provide an outlet for the diverse, local voices and musicians that are presently priced out of the market. These stations would also provide advertising options for local businesses and increased employment opportunities in these communities.

The strong interest in independent radio stations shows that the creation of low power radio service would have wide support. The tremendous public demand for micro-radio is demonstrated by the

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proliferation of illegal radio stations, whose operators broadcast at the risk of financial losses and, in some cases, imprisonment.

Again, we applaud the Commission's willingness to address this issue. We are hopeful that the creation of a new class of low power FM radio service will soon become a reality. We look forward to working with you on making the airwaves more accessible to our local communities.

Sincerely,

Shachar N. Link
132 The Crescent
North Hills, NY 11577

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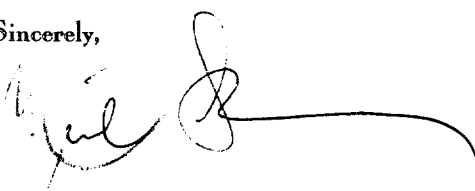
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